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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 as follows:

B1 ~~FIGURE 1 illustrates a prior art diaper assembly of the present invention.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 29 as follows:

B2 Suitable fibers for forming the neckable material include natural and synthetic fibers as well as bicomponent; multi-component, and shaped polymer fibers. Many polyolefins are available for fiber production according to the present invention, for example, fiber forming polypropylenes include Exxon Chemical Company's Esbodyne® PD 3445 polypropylene and Himont Chemical Company's PF-304. Polyethylenes such as Dow Chemical's ~~ASPUN®~~ ASPUN 6811A linear low density polyethylene, 2553 LLDPE and 25355 and 12350 high density polyethylene are also suitable polymers. The nonwoven web layer may be bonded to impart a discrete bond pattern with a prescribed bond surface area. If too much bond area is present on the neckable material, the material will break before it necks. If there is not enough bond area, then the neckable material will pull apart. Typically, the percent bonding area useful in the present invention ranges from around 5 percent to around 40 percent of the area of the neckable material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 10 as follows:

B3 The stretchable body side liner 5 may suitably be composed of a neck-stretched, spunbond web with ~~KRATON®~~ KRATON G strands,

B3 such as 0.4 osy (60% neck-stretched) polypropylene spunbond laminated to 0.4 osy strands of ~~KRATON~~[®] KRATON MM G2760 with 12 strands per inch, which is stretched then allowed to retract. Other suitable elastic materials may include a neck stretched/creped spunbond material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 15 as follows:

B4 The stretchable liner 10 may be composed of a substantially hydrophobic material, and the hydrophobic material can, optionally, be treated with a surfactant or otherwise processed to impart a desired level of wettability and hydrophilicity. For example, the elastic material can be surface treated with about 0.45 weight percent of a surfactant mixture including ~~AHCOVEL~~[®] AHCOVEL N-62 from Hodgson Textile Chemicals of Mount Holly, North Carolina, U.S.A. and ~~GLUCOPON~~[®] GLUCOPON 220UP from Henkel Corporation of Ambler, Pennsylvania, in an active ratio of 3:1. The surfactant can be applied by any conventional means, such as spraying, printing, brush coating or the like. The surfactant can be applied to the entire stretchable liner 10 or can be selectively applied to particular sections of the stretchable liner 10, such as the medial section along the longitudinal centerline.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 25 as follows:

B5 The extensible outer cover 17 of the present invention is desirably capable of providing a selected elongation when subjected to an applied tensile force. The extensible outer cover 17 is also desirably capable of providing a selected, sustained deformation when subjected to an applied tensile force

B5 and then allowed to relax for a selected time period after removing the applied tensile force. The measurement of the selected time period begins immediately after the removal of the tensile force. Preferably, the sustained deformation is a substantially permanent deformation. The selected elongation and sustained deformation can occur at least along the lateral direction 60 (i.e., cross-machine direction) of the diaper 1. Optionally, the selected elongation and sustained deformation can occur along the longitudinal direction ~~[[61]]~~ 62 (i.e., machine direction) of the diaper 1, or may occur along both the lateral direction 60 and longitudinal direction ~~[[61]]~~ 62 of the diaper 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 1 as follows:

B6 In the various configurations of the invention, the stretchable outer cover 17 is also configured to be substantially impermeable to aqueous liquid. For example, the outer cover 17 may have a construction that is capable of supporting a selected hydrohead of water substantially without leakage therethrough. A suitable technique for determining the resistance of a material to liquid penetration is Federal Test Method Standard FTMS 191 Method 5514, 1978, ~~[[oran]]~~ or an equivalent thereof. Since the outer cover 17 is extensible, a layer of nylon net material having a thickness of about 0.1 mm may be needed to support the outer cover material for this test. The net material may be provided by nylon threads arranged in a hexagonal or honeycomb-like pattern with openings approximately 4 mm across.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 28 as follows:

B7 Alternative polymers for the film layer include those referred to as single site catalyzed polymers such as "metallocene" polymers produced according to a metallocene process and which have limited elastic properties. For example, a common metallocene is ferrocene, a complex of a metal between two cyclopentadienyl (Cp) ligands. Such metallocene polymers are available from Exxon Chemical Company of Baytown, Texas under the trademark ~~EXXPOL~~[®] EXXPOL for polypropylene based polymers and ~~EXACT~~[®] EXACT for polyethylene based polymers and from Dow Chemical Company of Midland, Michigan under the name ~~ENGAGE~~[®] ENGAGE. Preferably, the metallocene polymers are selected from copolymers of ethylene and 1-butane, copolymers of ethylene and 1-hexene, copolymers of ethylene and 1-octene, or a combination thereof. Suitable non-elastic neckable materials for the outer cover 17 include nonwoven webs, woven materials, knitted materials, or a combination thereof, such as those described in the above-mentioned U.S. Patent No. 4,965,122.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 11 as follows:

B8 Nonwoven fabrics or webs have been formed from many processes, for example, bonded carded web processes, meltblowing processes and spunbonding processes. The non-elastic neckable material is preferably formed from at least one member selected from fibers and filaments of inelastic polymers. Such polymers include polyesters, for example, polyethylene terephthalate, polyolefins, for example, polyethylene and polypropylene, polyamides, for example, nylon 6 and nylon 66. These fibers or filaments are used alone or in a mixture of two or more thereof.

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CONT

Suitable fibers for forming the neckable material include natural fibers, synthetic fibers, bicomponent fibers, multi-component fibers, shaped polymer fibers, or a combination thereof. Many polyolefins are available for fiber production according to the present invention, for example, fiber forming polypropylenes include Exxon Chemical Company's Esbodyne® PD 3445 polypropylene and Himont Chemical Company's PF-304. Polyethylenes such as Dow Chemical's ~~ASPUN®~~ ASPUN 6811A linear low density polyethylene, 2553 LLDPE and 25355 and 12350 high density polyethylene are also suitable polymers.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 20 as follows:

B9

One example of an elastic outer cover 17 material with elastic properties is a 0.3 osy polypropylene spunbond that is necked 60% in the transverse direction 60 (i.e., cross-machine direction) and creped 60% in the longitudinal direction 61, laminated with 3 grams per square meter (gsm) Findley 2525A styrene-isoprene-styrene based adhesive to 8 gsm ~~PEBAX®~~ PEBAX 2533 film with 20% TiO₂ concentrate. In such an elastic embodiment, the outer cover 17 can suitably be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 50% (to at least 150% of an initial (unstretched) width and/or length of the outer cover 17). More suitably, the outer cover 17 can be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 100% (to at least 200% of the unstretched width or length of the outer cover 17). Even more suitably, the outer cover 17 can be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 150% (to at least 250% of the unstretched width or length of the outer cover 17). Tension in the outer cover 17 at 50% extension is suitably between 50 and 1000 grams, more suitably between 100

B9 and 600 grams, as measured on a 3 inch wide piece of the outer cover material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 13 as follows:

B10 Suitable stretchable polymers for making the film include stretchable olefin polymers, such as an olefinic copolymer of polyethylene. More specifically, other stretchable polymers include diblock, triblock, tetrablock or other multi-block elastomeric copolymers such as olefinic copolymers, including styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/ butylene-styrene, or styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene, which may be obtained from the Shell Chemical Company, under the trademark ~~KRATON~~[®] KRATON elastomeric resin; polyurethanes, including those available from E. I. du Pont de Nemours Co., under the trademark ~~LYCRA~~[®] LYCRA polyurethane; polyamides, including polyether block amides available from Ato Chemical Company, under the trademark ~~PEBAX~~[®] PEBAX polyether block amide; polyesters, such as those available from E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co., under the trademark ~~HYTREL~~[®] HYTREL polyester; and single-site or metallocene-catalyzed polyolefins having density less than about 0.91 grams/cc, available from Dow Chemical Co. under the trademark ~~AFFINITY~~[®] AFFINITY.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 11 as follows:

B11 Another example of a suitable material for the stretchable outer cover 17 is a breathable elastic film/nonwoven laminate, described in U.S. Patent No. 5,883,028, issued to Morman et al., herein incorporated by reference. Still more ~~examples~~ examples

B11
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of materials having biaxial stretchability and retractability are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,116,662 issued to Morman and U.S. Patent No. 5,114,781 issued to Morman, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference. These two patents describe composite elastic materials capable of stretching in at least two directions. The materials have at least one elastic sheet and at least one necked material, or reversibly necked material, joined to the elastic sheet at least at three locations arranged in a nonlinear configuration, so that the necked, or reversibly necked, web is gathered between at least two of those locations.

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

B12
~~The present invention provides~~ A disposable absorbent article has an absorbent core defining having a surface area[[,]] and a stretchable multilayer chassis defining having a surface area[[, wherein]]. the The multilayer chassis is stretchable in at least the cross-machine direction[[, wherein]]. the The stretchable multilayer chassis ~~comprises~~ has at least a stretchable bodyside liner and stretchable outer cover such that the absorbent core is affixed to at least one layer of the stretchable multilayer chassis[[, wherein]]. the The percentage ratio of the surface area of the absorbent core to the surface area of the stretchable multilayer chassis is less than about 50%.
